

WORKS IN DOVER HARBOUR.

On the 13th, when the Duke of Wellington presided at the Harbour Sessions, a new swing bridge was opened for the first time, and was named the "Wellington Bridge." Mr. Walker, the engineer, and Mr. Hardwick, the architect to the board, were in attendance. Considerable improvements have been made here since 1844, when they were commenced. They consist chiefly of an extension of the outer harbour to the eastward; the additional surface of water thus obtained, covering upwards of four acres. To gain this space a number of houses standing on the ordnance property, and nearly the whole of Union-street (except Latham's bank) have been pulled down. The new dock walls, rendered necessary by this extension, are built in a substantial manner, and faced with granite. The next principal feature in the improvements is a new entrance to the "pent," or inner harbour. This entrance opens from the new excavations, and is nearly double the width of the old northern gates, measuring nearly 60 feet wide, and having 3 feet more water, thus admitting vessels of a far greater burden than heretofore. It is provided with lock gates formed of massive cast-iron ribs, with planks on each side to render them buoyant. Across this entrance the swing bridge above alluded to is thrown, having a span of 60 feet, and a roadway 16 feet wide. It has been cast under the direction of Messrs. Hunter and English, of Bow-creek. The other works consist of a stone apron, which has been thrown up between Cheeseman's Head and the South Pier, for the purpose of protecting that portion of harbour; the excavation of the "pent," or inner harbour, to make it available for larger vessels; the removal of the pilot house further west, and the erection of a sea-wall from the terminus of the railway to the harbour; the latter work having been undertaken by the directors of the South-Eastern Railway Company, who are about to erect a new hotel immediately adjoining the pier head. Mr. Bray is the contractor employed. Great efforts are being made by the inhabitants to obtain a low-water pier, or by other means to render the harbour accessible to steam-vessels at all times.

RAILWAY JOTTINGS.

There were ninety notices of applications to be made to Parliament, next session, for railway bills, in an extra number of the *London Gazette*, published on Saturday last, which was followed up, on Monday, by another extra number, containing upwards of 130 notices. The new Railway Board of Commissioners appears, from the *Gazette* of Friday last, to be now complete. The members are, the Right Hon. Edward Strutt, the Right Hon. Granville George Earl Grosvenor, the Right Hon. Sir Edward Ryan, Knight, and Captain Henry Rowland Brandreth, R.E. The board entered upon its duties on Monday, the 9th instant. Another bridge has just tumbled down on the Berks and Hants branch of the Great Western line, and the lives of three men have been sacrificed, and several others left in a precarious state. They had been ordered to remove the bricks from the arch, which had been for some weeks previously pronounced to be in a dangerous state, and supposed, correctly, to be even incapable of standing till its parts were buddled together into a finished form; and accordingly, while engaged in taking off the parapet wall on the top of the erection, the whole mass suddenly gave way, and the victims were sacrificed. A verdict of "accidental death" was given in each case, "but not without some strong remarks from the jury on the culpable neglect, as well as the responsibility of the railway contractors, with regard to the erection of bridges on this line; as no less than four lives have been lost, and other accidents occasioned, as well as the works much retarded from their falling in along the line."

ILLUSTRATIONS OF BRISTOL.—Mrs. R. R. Pocock has commenced a work, illustrative of the most ancient and picturesque portions of architecture remaining in this city, under the title of "Sketches of Bristol in the olden time." The views we have seen, made upon stone by Mrs. Pocock from her own sketches, are exceedingly clever.

Correspondence.

"LANTERN" FOR WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

SIR,—I am much obliged by the notice in your "correspondence" of my humble plan—"Iron Central Piers Cased with Marble," of which a grey dove incrustation might be particularly appropriate. If the iron be safe from "expansion," which appears not to exclude its use elsewhere, there can be no objection as regards possibility. Dr. Buckland's experienced dictum must be more than just; for to erect any thing heavy on the present over-light though graceful piers, and not expect an early fearful "smash" might be the most fatal constructive blindness on record.

But the next best resource certainly, and perhaps, under all the circumstances, a better still, would be a light dwarf lantern, or lantern spire, in the centre, such as is seen in many continental churches. Any one looking from the Millbank quarter (of which St. John's Church affords one of the best views), would instantly allow that the clumsiest thing of this sort, were it only, to take the minimum, to rise twenty-five feet above the present apex of the roof, would be a "telling" addition. This idea is so simple, that it may be wondered at as not having been broached before. But, as

— "A fool may teach a wise man wit,"

candid individuals will at last look at a suggestion which might be improved to any degree of elegance and completeness.

I am, Sir, &c.,

J. D. PARRY.

TENDERS.

TENDERS delivered for building the Custom House, New Dock Company, Southampton:—

Piper	£7,930
Grimsdell	7,785
Nicholson	7,618
Grissell	7,555
W. Cubitt	7,487
Baker	6,853

Tenders delivered on the 12th inst. for rebuilding the Green Man and Still, Oxford-street, for Mr. Duncan Sinclair; Mr. N. Joll, architect:—

Soward	£1,776
Cooper	1,752
Mason	1,687
Jay	1,676
J. and T. Ward	1,665
Wilson (accepted)	1,577

Miscellaneous.

OXFORD ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETY.—The first meeting in the present term was held in the society's room on Wednesday evening, the 4th of November; the Rev. the President in the chair. New members having been elected, and other business transacted, the report of the sub-committee for conducting the restoration of Dorchester Abbey Church was read: it mentioned that the great east window was now in course of restoration; that the present low roof of the sacristy was about to be replaced by an excellent open one, and that the example of raising terminal subscriptions in particular colleges for the restoration of particular parts, which was set by some members of Oriel, has been followed by members of Exeter and Trinity colleges. Mr. E. Freeman, of Trinity College, then read a paper "On the History of Geometrical Window-tracery," illustrated by a large collection of drawings and engravings. The paper gave rise to some remarks from Mr. Ruskin, of Christ Church, and others; after which the meeting, which was numerously attended, dispersed.

REMOVAL OF WESTMINSTER BRIDGE.—The new bridge is to be formed near the end of Whitehall-place. A street is to be opened from Charing-cross, Northumberland House being one corner of it, passing through Craig's court and Great Seal-yard, down to the new bridge. There are loud complaints from the other side of the water.

ROYAL AND ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETIES.—The meetings of these societies were resumed on Thursday evening last.

ARCHAEOLOGY.—The British Archaeological Association, and the Archaeological Institute, have also commenced the session; the former in new rooms in Sackville-street, Piccadilly.

COST OF BATHS AND WASHHOUSES.—At a recent meeting of the Marylebone Vestry, when it was resolved to establish baths and washhouses in that parish, in accordance with the Act of Parliament passed last session, Mr. G. Daniel said, that "as the expense of any new undertaking was the most material feature in the eyes of many men, he would give them an estimate, founded upon the average outlay expended on the existing establishments of the kind in different parts of the country. For a building containing twenty-five baths, two warm baths, one vapour, forty-five tubs, and two drying closets, the estimated outlay would be 3,000*l*. The salaries—namely, a clerk at 100*l*. per annum; housekeeper, 80*l*.; servants, 140*l*.; and incidentals, 30*l*.—would amount to 350*l*. The working expenses of the establishment would be more than defrayed out of the fund raised by the proposed trifling charge of 2*d*. to each person using the baths or wash-houses. This, at least, had been the case in other districts. Looking to the population of Marylebone, and comparing it with that of districts in which these establishments were now in operation, he had estimated the number of bathers per month at 10,000, which, at the rate of 2*d*. each, gave them a total of 83*l*. 6*s*. 8*d*. The washers, estimated at 1,500 per month, would bring 12*l*. 10*s*., making a total receipt of 95*l*. 16*s*. 8*d*. per month."

NEW STREETS.—Notice is given for the construction of a new street from the west end of Long-acre to King-street, Covent-garden, coming out into that street opposite Bedford-street; it will cross Rose and Hart-streets, and destroy a great many small courts and alleys. Another improvement is to form a new street from Westminster Abbey to James-street, Buckingham-gate, by the destruction of those dens of infamy lying between Tothill and Orchard-streets. Going to the east end of London, the most important is the formation of a carriage-way from Great Tower-hill to Little Tower-hill, by the removal of Postern-row, a person at the present time wishing to get from the former to the docks having to make a circuit of a mile and a half.

THE MARBLE ARCH.—A correspondent (T. I. M.) says:—"It was suggested a few years ago, that it would be a great improvement to the locality, as well as a convenience to the public, to have a good entrance into St. James's-park, near Spring-gardens, but so as to face the west end of the Strand, and that the said grand entrance should be a triumphal arch.—As it is not yet settled what is to be done with the marble arch of Buckingham Palace, allow me to ask, could it be applied to a better purpose than the above?"

ARCHITECTS IN FRANCE.—At the sitting of the Council General of the Seine, on Saturday, the plans and estimates for the first section of the works at the Palais de Justice, comprising the offices for the correctional police, the cabinets of the examining magistrates, and the offices of the Procureur de Roi, were approved of. At this sitting, according to *Galignani*, it was resolved that in all cases where the expenditure should exceed the estimates, the architect shall receive no per-centage upon the excess.

AN ARCHITECTURAL SCHOOL OF DESIGN.—In reply to several correspondents who have addressed us on this subject, in consequence of the suggestions which appeared in our pages, we mention that Mr. Charles Gray, of 5, Grange Villas, Brompton, in connection with other architectural students, is endeavouring to organize a school of design, and will be glad to receive communications from any who will take part in it.

COMPETITION IN THE CITY.—The Imperial Assurance Company are about to erect a structure for their purposes in Threadneedle-street, west of the Hall of Commerce. Thirteen gentlemen have been invited to submit plans in competition, including, as we are told, Mr. Moxhay, the proprietor of the last-named building.

* An amateur correspondent thus writes on the subject:—"I hope the scramble letter of an architectural student, on the subject of schools of design, has (to use an expression of Coleridge) 'left a sting' in the minds of young architecture. Its importance cannot be overrated; it will fill a chasm that has long existed between the student and his vocation; and if, as your correspondent urges, the leading members of the profession do but give their assistance, a nucleus will be formed, around which all the talent and energy of the undedged architects will be centered; mutually assisting and inspiring, the path of tyros will be upwards and onwards." H. J. L.